

Appl. No. 10/769,030
Amdt. sent May 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are pending. No new matter has been added.

Claims 6, 11, and 14-15 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-9 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10, 12-13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaichi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0018849 in view of Omura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,687,347.

As to the objections of claims 6, 11, 14, and 15, claim 6 has been canceled. The dependencies of claims 11, 14, and 15 have been corrected per the examiner's observation, for which the undersigned is appreciative.

As to the Section 112 rejection, claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. Claim 13 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "said storage device."

In a storage system according to the present invention, pre-reading of data for a computer is performed based on its access history with the storage device. Thus, for example, claim 1 substantively recites in part "pre-reads data to be used by said one of said computers ..., said pre-read data being determined in accordance with said history of data readout activity of said one of said computers." See also independent claims 10, 13, and 17.

Takaichi was cited at paragraph [0047] for his description of a continuity detection unit 4. Takaichi clearly describes the continuity detection unit as calculating "an access direction along which data prereading is to be carried out." Takaichi is directed to providing efficient prereading of data based "an area accessed by a just-previous read command and an area required by a present read command, the direction of the access, the interval between the areas, and the area size are detected, and the position and size of an area on a disk memory medium." *Abstract (underlining added)*. Takaichi teach prereading based on positional relationships of the data as it is actually stored on the disk.

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By contrast, the pending claims recite prereading data for a computer based on the data read out of the storage system by that computer. Thus, whereas Takaichi discloses prereading based on positional parameters of the data as it is actually stored on the disk, such as direction access, data interval, and data position and size, the present invention as recited in the pending claims recites prereading based on the data itself. Takaichi does not teach or suggest "pre-reads data to be used by said one of said computers ..., said pre-read data being determined in accordance with said history of data readout activity of said one of said computers" as recited in the pending claims.

Omura was cited for teaching the use of plural computers. Omura, however, does not teach "pre-reads data to be used by said one of said computers ..., said pre-read data being determined in accordance with said history of data readout activity of said one of said computers."

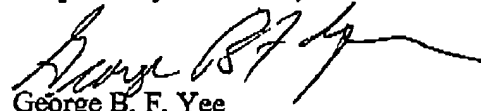
For the reasons set forth above, the Section 103 rejection of the claims is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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